

## Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01

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R 151520Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4836

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1691

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AR

SUBJECT: NEW MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

1. DEFENSE. ON MAR 12 DR. JOSE ALBERTO DEHEZA WAS SWORN IN AS MIN OF DEFENSE REPLACING DR. RICARDO GUARDO, WHO RESIGNED IN LATE FEB. DEHEZA IN FACT MOVED OVER FROM THE JUSTICE MINISTRY AT TIME OF GUARDO'S RESIGNATION AND HAS BEEN ACTING AS DEFENSE MIN EVER SINCE. INTERESTINGLY, DEHEZA IS THE SON-IN-LAW OF THE LATE GEN EDUARDO LONARDI AND WAS THE LATTER'S PRIVATE SECY DURING HIS BRIEF PRESIDENCY FOLLOWING PERON'S OVERTHROWN IN 1955. DEHEZA SERVED IN SOCIAL WELFARE MIN UNDER THE ONGANIA GOVT. HE BECAME CHIEF OF STAFF FOR BENITO LLAMBI WHILE THE LATTER WAS INTERIOR MIN DURING 1973 AND 1974. IN 1975 DEHEZA BECAME FEDERAL ATTORNEY IN THE FED COURT SYSTEM IN BUENOS AIRES. HE SERVED THERE UNTIL APPOINTED JUSTICE MIN IN JAN OF 1976. DEHEZA WAS THE ATTORNEY WHO HANDLED THE INVESTIGATION OF CORRUPTION CHARGES AGAINST MRS. PERON AND IT WAS ON THE BASIS OF HIS RECOMMENDATION THAT THE FED JUDGE CLEARED HER OF CHARGES RE AN INCORRECTLY WRITTEN CHECK. DEHEZA'S APPT AS MIN OF JUSTICE ONLY A FEW WEEKS LATER IMMEDIATELY LED TO CHARGES OF A DEAL, I.E. A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH FOR MRS. PERON IN RETURN FOR A MINISTRY. DEHEZA IS NOT HIGHLY REGARDED.

2. JUSTICE. DR. AUGUSTO SAFFORES WAS SWORN IN MAR 12

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AS THE NEW JUSTICE MIN. HE WAS NAMED UNDERSECRETARY

OF JUSTICE IN JAN AT THE SAME TIME DEHEZA WAS NAMED  
MIN, AND WITH DEHEZA'S MOVE TO DEFENSE IN LATE FEB,  
SAFFORES ACTED AS MIN UNTIL CONFIRMED IN THE POSITION  
MAR QWM LITTLE IS KNOWN OF SAFFORES. A LAWYER, HE IS  
55 AND IS SAID TO HAVE HAD DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE IN  
URUGUARY, BRAZIL, ITALY AND SWITZERLAND. HE HELD  
SEVERAL ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS UNDER THE 1966-73 MILITARY  
GOVT--SERVING IN THE MINISTRIES OF MARINE, OF INDUSTRY  
AND COMMERCE, AND OF TREASURY. SAFFORES IS THE 38TH  
MINISTER TO BE SOWRN IN SINCE MRS. PERON BECAME PRES  
JUST A LITTLE OVER 18 MONTHS AGO.  
HILL

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## Message Attributes

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